

Back Mountain Community News

MARCH 2021

Serving the Back Mountain & Surrounding Communities

www.communitynewsonline.net **Free!**

The Kiwanis Club of Dallas recently donated money for students who were in need of financial assistance



The Kiwanis Club of Dallas recently donated money for students who were in need of financial assistance yet did not meet the threshold from the federal guidelines for free or reduced lunches. Above: Beverley Atherholt, Treasurer of the Kiwanis Club presented a check to Doug Klopp (Principal) of the Lake-Lehman School District. Anyone interested in joining the Kiwanis Club please contact Beverley Atherholt at (570) 675-7295 or Charlie Kishbaugh at (570) 675-8780.

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Back Mountain Food Pantry serving residents in the Dallas, Lake-Lehman School Districts

The Back Mountain Food Pantry is open and continues to serve residents of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts. Are you or someone you know in need of food due to economic conditions or other hardship? We are here to help. The Back Mountain Food Pantry works in conjunction with CEO and the Weinberg Food Bank. We are located in the lower level of the Trucksville Methodist Church Educational Building, Knob Road, Trucksville. Please call us at 570-696-2917 for more information.

If you would like to help provide for others in our community, donations of nonperishable food may be dropped off at Hilbert's Tractor Store in Dallas, Cook's Pharmacy in Shavertown, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas during regular business hours. The Pantry is currently in need of pancake mix, pancake syrup and juice. Please no glass or refrigerated items. Thank you for your continued support in helping feed our neighbors in the the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts.



We Care.

Help Support our Back Mountain Businesses & Shop Local.

Deadline for the April issue of the Back Mountain Community News is Friday, March 26, at 9:00 am.

Please note: Due to some email concerns with Comcast not always being reliable, if you send an email to: **communitynews123@comcast.net** and you receive a return message **undeliverable** - please forward to **lisapretko@icloud.com**

Back Mountain
Community News
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Office: 570-674-7772
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Advertising rates apply to all business advertising.
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It's All Good News ... Where Community Matters

Lenten Meal planned

Northmoreland Twp. Vol. Fire Co. will have Lenten Meal on Friday March 26, 2021 from 4-6:30 PM. This will be Take Out with Limited Eat-In seating.

Meals will be of Haddock, Crab Cake, Shrimp, with sides of Fries and Coleslaw, Price: \$9.00, also offering Homemade Haluski, New England Clam Chowder, and Manhattan Clam Chowder.

For more information, call the fire hall on the day of the dinner at 570-333-4911. Please support your local volunteers!

Winter parking ordinance reminder

The Kingston Township Winter Parking Ordinance is in effect until March 31. Parking is prohibited on Township streets between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am daily. Parking is also prohibited on Township streets during snow storms and for eight (8) hours after the end of a snow storm. If an event arises that you have a need to park on the street, please call the Kingston Township Police ahead of time to discuss your options, (570) 696-1175.

Annual Lenten Fish Fry planned

The Harveys Lake Fire & Ambulance Company is once again having their annual Lenten Fish Fry to be held four times: March 5, 19, 26 and April 2, 2021 at the Fire Hall in Idetown.

This will be a TAKE-OUT ONLY with service right to your cars for both order taking and delivery to your vehicle. The times will be from 4PM to 7PM on those Fridays listed above. The meals will be \$10.00. Also available will be containers of Pierogies and Haluski.

As you may know it is very hard to raise monies for Fire Departments and Ambulance Companies over this past year. We work hard in every way we can to raise funds to support the community. Please help by supporting us and your local Fire & Ambulance Companies. We Volunteer for YOU!

No depositing of snow or ice on streets

Residents are reminded that it is against Kingston Township Ordinance to deposit snow or ice on sidewalks or streets in Kingston Township. Anyone violating the ordinance can be brought before the district justice and shall be sentenced to pay a fine of up to \$1,000 plus costs. Please be mindful when shoveling, blowing or plowing snow. Residents that have a plowing service are asked to inform the driver of this ordinance.



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Dallas American Legion's Annual Pig Roast to be held in March

Daddow-Isaacs Dallas American Legion Post 672 will hold their annual Pig Roast on March 6 from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M.

The donation for children under the age of 12 will be \$6, and \$15 for adults. The price has increased since the price of pork has escalated due to covid restrictions. The menu will consist of: pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, apple sauce, cole slaw and assorted beverages. There will be limited seating observing masks and distance protocol

Take outs will also be available. Monies derived will be used for community activities. Tickets are available at the bar. For further information, contact Clarence J. Michael at (570) 675-0488.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library lists the following news items

We're glad to announce that the Library has reopened to the public. Come in to browse for books, DVDs, and audiobooks. Books and other materials held by the other libraries in the Luzerne County Library System are also available. We also encourage our patrons to continue using curbside pick-up to receive their items. Call us to request items, or you can place your holds online from home. There will be no public computer access at this time.

The Slightly Read Bookstore will continue to be open, but with reduced hours and days. We recommend that you call before coming to verify that they will be able to serve you.

The Children's Room continues our Winter/Spring Virtual Story Times through March. We're welcoming Spring with stories and accompanying crafts. Our craft kits let you say goodbye to Winter and hello to Spring. We provide all the supplies to make robins, shamrocks, flowering trees, and more! Be sure to pick up your kits to get the fun started. Check the Children's Room Facebook page for more information. The virtual stories are released every Wednesday at 10 AM.

The Library renovations will be causing some closures in the future. We hope to keep the inconveniences to a minimum. Check the website for information on our progress. Thank you for your understanding. Contact us at 570-675-1182. And find so much more at our website at www.backmountainlibrary.org.

Daniel J. Myers, Appointed as Fifteenth President of Misericordia University

The Board of Trustees of Misericordia University has appointed Daniel J. Myers, Ph.D., professor and acting chairperson of Sociology at American University in Washington, D.C., as the next president of Misericordia University. Dr. Myers will begin his presidential term on July 1, 2021.

"Dr. Myers brings extensive experience in the areas of planning, new program development, community engagement, faculty development, enrollment management, fundraising, and diversity and inclusion," says Dr. Deborah Smith-Mileski, chair, Misericordia University Board of Trustees. "His strategic vision and administrative experience will serve this university well into the next century."

Myers earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in higher education and student affairs from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, before completing a master's and doctorate in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a well-known expert in the study of collective behavior and social movements. He has published books and articles primarily focused on protest and unrest, the diffusion of social phenomena, social psychology, and urban politics. He has won awards for both his research and

teaching.

Myers previously served as provost at American University and Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Before that, he spent 17 years at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, serving as vice president and associate provost for Faculty Affairs, Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Letters, and as chair of the Department of Sociology. Myers had also been the director of Faculty Development and Research in the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and he founded and directed the Center for the Study of Social Movements.

"I am tremendously excited to join the Misericordia community and contribute to the wonderful work done by this engaged community," says Myers. "I want to thank the search committee, the board of trustees, and all of the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the interview process. Their testimony about the commitment to the charisms and mission of Misericordia were powerful, meaningful, and resonated deeply with me."

Myers will succeed Kathleen Owens, Ph.D., who continues to serve as president of Misericordia through June 30, 2021. Dr. Owens was appointed to serve as president for the 2020 - 2021 academic year,



succeeding Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., who left Misericordia for the presidency of the University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio, in June 2020.

For more information about Misericordia University, please call 570-674-6400 or visit www.misericordia.edu. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1924, Misericordia University is Luzerne County's first four-year college and offers 56 academic programs on the graduate and undergraduate levels in full- and part-time formats. Misericordia University ranks in the "National Universities" category of U.S. News and World Report's 2021 edition of Best Colleges.

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Navient supports Family Service Association

Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania (FSA) is excited to announce Navient made a generous gift of \$750 to FSA's as a part of its Day of Giving. Navient notes, "We are very happy that we can continue to make this contribution to FSA this year. Navient very much appreciate all the organization does for the families of our community." Gertrude C. McGowan, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, of the Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which provides PA 211 NE/ Help Line Services, stated, "Navient is a long-time supporter of FSA and we are so thankful for steadfast support as we endeavor to meet the needs of our consumers in this unprecedented time". The Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania was established in 1895 by a group of involved and concerned members of the community to provide diverse services to children, individuals, seniors, and families empowering them to achieve their full potential through building healthier relationships and stronger communities.

Pizza Bella

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Rotary Auction for Charity

The 42 Rotary Clubs of District 7410, who support and help fund community projects in all or part of 10 counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania, are sponsoring a virtual silent auction online now through Sunday, March 14, at 5:00 pm., with scores of donated items up for bid throughout the process.

The lists of items include jewelry, vacation or weekend getaways, ski passes, tickets to professional sporting events and even professional services such as an attorney, an insurance agency and others.

Visit Trellis.org/RotaryAuction for a look at the variety of items up for bid. Once the bidding starts on February 1, 2021, bidders and prospective bidders may return to the site for a real-time appraisal of the bidding for items of interest until the bidding ends at 5 p.m. on March 14. Please join us to help us make a difference in our communities.

Plan to attend a fun event for children and the whole family

Join in the fun on Saturday, March 27th and Sunday, March 28th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The EASTER BUNNY will be here, Belgian Draft Horse Rides (weather permitting), Alpaca Easter Bunnies from Pine Valley Alpacas (Saturday, March 27th from 10am - 4pm ONLY) for the kids to pet, Holy Smoke Cheese and Kielbasa and Legacy In a Glass will be pouring samples (Saturday, March 27th from 10-4pm ONLY).

Fresh flower boutiques and Easter bunny bouquets will be available. Bring the kids out for some Easter fun and activities! Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Smores and more.

Come see all the new country decor and homemade items from our 65+ vendors. A wide variety of Easter flowers will be available beginning March 20th on at the barn.

Craft for March will be a Wooden Door Mat. This class is currently being offered Saturday, March 20th at 6:30PM. Pre-registration is necessary. Contact the Blooming Barn at 570-256-4396 and it is located at 304 Broadway Road, Hunlock Creek.

Pauly Friedman Art Gallery at Misericordia University to host "The Fine Print"

Misericordia University is hosting the exhibition "The Fine Print," in the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery until March 14.

This exhibition highlights the experimental styles of contemporary African-American printmakers. Curated in partnership with Curlee Raven Holton of Raven Fine Art Editions in Easton, Pennsylvania, "The Fine Print" features twenty-nine works twenty-three artists who have contributed excellence and innovation to American Art, including Benny Andrews, Robert Blackburn, Elizabeth Catlett, David C. Driskell, and Faith Ringgold.

The gallery will be hosting a variety of virtual events throughout the duration of the exhibit in conjunction with Misericordia University's celebrations of Black History Month and Women's History Month.

On Friday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m., the Gallery will present a virtual table reading of "A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry. Hansberry was the first African American woman playwright to have her work performed on Broadway in 1959. The 2014 Broadway revival of "A Raisin in the Sun" won three Tony awards. All are welcome to view this performance via Zoom at tinyurl.com/MURaisin. The cast will feature local students and community actors. A brief introduction to Racial Equity in Housing will be presented by Dr. Richard Hancuff of Misericordia University. This event is being held in partnership with Misericordia University Players and Gaslight Theatre of Wilkes Barre. Visit misericordia.edu/art or contact Laine Little (llittle@misericordia.edu) for more information.

Due to the pandemic, the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery is closed to the general public. To schedule a private viewing or for more information, visit www.misericordia.edu/art or call the gallery at (570) 674-6250.

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Food Pantry in Sweet Valley open

The new food pantry in Sweet Valley, located inside the Church of Christ on Main Road in Sweet Valley will be open to those in need of food on the first Friday of each month. Food donations are also being accepted. For more information call 570-477-2320.

Email your community news information and photos to: Back Mountain Community News at: communitynews123@comcast.net. To read the paper online free of charge, visit: www.communitynews123.net.

For advertising information call 570-674-7772.

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Where Community Matters.



Dallas Middle School Second Marking Period Honor Roll

Mr. Jeffrey D. Shaffer, Dallas Middle School Principal and Director of Secondary Curriculum for the Dallas School District, announces the Second Quarter Honor Roll.

The Honor Roll is determined by the following:

Honors With Distinction – 98 or above with no grade lower than 74; First Honors – 93 to 97 with no grade lower than 74; Second Honors – 88 to 92 with no grade lower than 74.

Honors with Distinction - 8th Grade: Nina Barrouk, Samantha Berlew, Davyn Bonvie, Kasey Bryant, Giavanna Cella, Kaden Coyne, Molly Curran, Ava DeMichele, Riley Dewey, Vincent Fazzino, Peyton Feeney, Faith Fennell, Cora Finn, Rachael Flanagan, Jack Fleury, Lydia Gonzales, Bruce Graham, Madison Hedglin, Iris Hobson-Tomascik, Rylie Hoyes, Cole Johnston, Luke Karcutskie, Adriana Kopalek, Katerina Kopalek, Taylor Laity, Jack Leandri, Lindsay Matinas, Christopher Miller, Emma Miller, Paige Miller, Jasmin Nguyen, Jude Nocito, Caroline Pitarra, Emerson Rivera, Tyler Roberts, Blake Seiwel, Cassidy Siglin, Giovanna Smacchi, Peyton Stauffer, Keerstyn Tabor, Sadie Watkins.

7th Grade: Julia Antall, Paige Banks, Theo Barr, Chasity Basara, Jacob Bryk, Lauren Clark, Teagan Cotter, Noelle Cunningham, Michael Elgonitis, Julia Fleury, Brynlee Fosko, Alexa Gauntlett, Nara Gomeau, Maya Gross, Makenzie Hrivnak, Megan Kuzma, Delia Maloney, Brady Mizzer, Dominick Zangardi.

6th Grade: Alexa Berecin, Patrick Bradshaw, Elijah Close, Gracie Coyne, Gerald Daney, Kate Dautrich, Jason Dyrli, Brady Ecenrode, Catlin Finn, Christopher Flanagan, Patrick Flanagan, Robert Gallagher, Mayah Kolinovsky, Andrew Lisman, Sophia Strazdus, Luke Tellis, Brady Youngblood.

First Honors - 8th Grade: Rachel Bogdan, Andrew Bolesta, Angelina Camoni, Roman Carpenter, McKenna Cochran, Shawn Collins, Carolyn Comitz, Lydia Federici, Matthew Ferretti, Taylor Fink, Hannah Gozikowski, Noah Greco, Audrey Haydu, Logan Herman, Leanne Hodgson, Gabriella Hodne, Kaitlynn Keller, Noah Kolinovsky, Kenzie Kuderka, Morgan Langdon, Rowan Laubach, Morgan Lukasavage, Nathan Malarkey, Margaret McCabe, Andrew Menaker, Makenzie Musselman, Meadow Novicki, Kyla O'Brien, Meadow Parry, Croix Pevear, Stephen Phillips, Derek Rizzo, Ellie Root, Paige Slavinski, Jamie Timlin, John Ungvarsky, Clark VanOrden, Jarratt Webb, Carly Yoder, Brady Zapoticky, Juliana Ziomkowski.

7th Grade: Cassidy Alaimo, Kael Berry, Irellyn Butler, Addison Cavill, Travis Cheskiewitz, Abbie Coy, Olivia Craze, Mia DelGaudio, Mahi Dhol, Sophia Dove, Olivia Farrell, Ayden Feeney, Isabella Forlenza, Emma Fostock, Emily Grochal, Isabel Handley, Kaylee Humenansky, Cora Jones, Noah Kaczmarek, Ryan Kintz, Aubrey Kirwan, Juliana Konnick, Camryn Laule, Noah Love, Vera Moser, Ishan Mukul, Laken Parry, Jacob Phillips, Zoey Price, Leah Ricardo, Lia Riley, Madelyn Sabulski, Sarah Snowdon, Lydia Sutton, Colton VanOrden, Trevor Williams, Allyson Wysocki.

6th Grade: Nicholas Bednar, Nicholas Belfino, Brianna Casey, Nico Cella, Dylan Chapman, Tyler Daniels, Erin Duffy, Emma Eick, Ian English, Isabella Evans, Ella Feeney, Alexander Ferik, Madelyn Gonzales, Adalyn Gutierrez, Chase Harris, Jameson Harris, Abraham Hobson-Tomascik, Fiona Johnson-Fallon, Jacob Kachinko, Ananya Kantheti, Sutton Kern, Ireland Klikus, Ava Knorr, Cameron Kraynack, Jenna Krispin, William McCabe, Brady McCann, John McGuire, Lily Milazzo, Caitlyn Mizzer, William Moran, Julia Natitus, Paige Navestad, Meryn Novicki, Braden O'Brien, Kevin Osipower, Emma Pitcavage, Connor Provow, Ava Puskar, Regan Quinn, Sadie Quinn, Savannah Remus, Ryan Roman, Charlie Rother, Olivia Russoniello, Kevin Seidel, Matthew Sevenski, Jordyn Shedlock, Ainsley Slacktish, Tyler Spaciano, Haylie Symeon, Juliana Tosi, Tessa Travinski, Owen Wielgosz, Layla Williams, Abigail Worth, Arabella Woznikaitis, Jenna Young, James Youngblood.

Second Honors - 8th Grade: Kareem Almeky, Luke Austin, Zachary Brody, Aubrey Chandler, Kierra Cronin, Ella English, Skylar Evans, Lexie Faux, Matthew Gillette, Karly Kozick, Cole Kutch, Julius Mucha, Aaron Patton, Gina Pugliese, Cole Rigol, Tyler Rittenhouse, Margaret Smith, Emma Snell, Sarah Snell, Arianna Spurlin, Samuel Steinruck, Logan Valkenburg, Sarah Williams, Penelope Youells.

7th Grade: Samantha Dixon, Daniel Dudrick, Jack Galushka, Logan Geskey, Briana Greco, Harmony Gronkowski, Paige Harris, Zachary Hodakowski, Brady Johnson, Guy Jordan, Aleigha Ladamus, Nathaniel Linnen, Benjamin Mattey, Leo Matus, Julie Mulzoff, Julie Navestad, Joseph Raub, Connor Rinker, Mia Salsberg, Peyton VanValkenburgh, Massimo Winters, Lyla Wydra, Evelyn Yudichak, Olivia Zawatski.

6th Grade: Silin Abdo, Jordan Bender, David Da Silva, Emily Davidson, Lily Dudrick, Jonathan Ference, Mya Fortune, Madison Gronkowski, Austin Harris, Kinsey Kizis, Kaya Koflanovich, Angela Loftus, Sydney Mangan, Keegan Mulcahy, Hunter Pitcavage, Brooke Radginski, Tyler Richards, Mason Rinehimer, Lauren Roberts, Chase Robinson, Alana Smith, Anna Vincelli, Nina Webb, and David Worth.

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Dallas High School Second Marking Period Honor Roll

Mr. Gregory S. Riley, Dallas High School Principal, announces the second quarter honor roll.

The honor roll is determined by the following: Honors with Distinction: 98-100, no C's, D's, or F's. First Honors: 93-97, no D's or F's. Second Honors: 88-92, no D's or F's

Honors with Distinction - Senior: Siwar Abdo, Jacob Banta, Sabrina Barlow, Amanda Bedony, Amelia Bendick, Maura Berecin, Ava Bonita, Claire Charlton, Emily Crahall, Wade Curtis, Brady Dautrich, Vidhan Dhol, Drew Dickson, Nikolus Gashi, Andrew Gryskewicz, Aubrey Halbach, Logan Hayes, Isabella Hill, Olivia Karcutskie, Julia Kocher, Gabriela Krochta, Sam Leandri, Alex Lian, Janice Lisman, Andrew Lojewski, Julia Macey, Michael McCann, Karly Milazzo, Kareem Morsy, Julia Nicholson, Hanna Oldt, Tegan Ostroski, Laura Pacheco Torres, Lauren Palfey, Shelby Pocono, Garrett Porasky, Mia Reinert, Harley Sabol, Paul Shoemaker, Rachel Strazdus, Madalyn Strutko, Paige Tamagnini, Sidney Thomas, Morgan Vincelli, Emily Weiland, Riley Wren.

Juniors: Kaya Brown, Elena Burdge, Samuel Collins, Jake DelGaudio, Audrey DelGaudio, Nadia Evanosky, Janet Federici, Austin Finarelli, Samantha Handley, Allison Hrivnak, Matthew Jesse, Zachary Jesse, Jason Joshi, Kyle Kintz, Lorisa Klinger, Edward Matushek, Mallory McGeehan, Alexis Mikolosko,

Kyleigh Motley, Nicholas Nocito, Bryan Osipower, Olivia Podskoch, Alyssa Pritchard, Kalie Rizzo, Morgan Sakulich, Julia Sciandra, Morgan Solano, Allison Zeiss.

Sophomores: Jessica Atkinson, Brandon Banks, Morgan Bednar, Megan Bryk, Michael Bufalino, Lucas Carver, Selina Chen, Aiden Cotter, Caitlin Curran, Lucas Derome, Seth Dyrli, Peter Federici, Sadie Grochal, Reagan Halbach, Jenna Maslowski, Jordyn Meade, Erin Oldt, Lauren Oschal, Megan Ostrowski, Madison Pevear, Kira Pomrinke, Madison Simmons, Victoria Spaciano, Chelcie Strobel, Gary Weaver.

Freshmen: Noor Almekey, Sam Barrouk, Brynn Bittner, Emma Blazure, Juliana Burdge, John Cummings, Gabriela DaSilva, Mary Dahdal, Alex DelGaudio, Brianne Dempsey, Sophia Depolo, Anna Dorofeeva, Gianna Evans, Lillian Ferretti, Ellie Flynn, Sarah Gauntlett, Zoe Hakim, Scarlett Hobson-Tomascik, Nathan Johns, Emma Krzysik, Daniel Matthey, Bryce Phillips, Marie Popielarz, Jordan Porasky, Daniel Sabulski, Paige Scott, Benedict Sevenski, Artem Smagin, Julianna Sobocinski, Jacob Solomon, Carleigh Thomas, Madalyn Thomas, Ryan Vallach, Elizabeth Viglone, Natalie Vincelli, Jessie Wienckoski, Haily Yakus, Lindsey Yench.

First Honors - Seniors: Noah Abdulqawi, Dominic Aliciene, Samuel Barral, Patrick Beisel, Abigail Blockus, Katie Bogdon, Chloe Burke, Madison Carlsson, Claudia Carver, Bryce Chopyak, Alondra Church, Morgan Cochran, Aidan Conrad, Alicia Cooper, Dale Deyo, Benjamin Fife, Daniel Flynn, Hope Frantz, Spencer Gabriele, Mikayla Goldsmith, Kaci Hockenberry, Kaitlyn Hodakowski, Alyssa Hopple, Kayla Hopple, Jillian Kapitula, Carly Kappler, Anthony King, Allyson Kugler, Samantha Leon, Cooper Lewis, Matthew Lukasavage, Zachary Luksic, Zachary McEntee, Julia Montgomery, Logan Moore, Gabrielle Olson, Madyson Pendolphi, Abigail Perrego, Joshua Peters, Julia Phillips, Thomas Pierce, Evan Plank, Zachary Pokrinchak, Celia Reabuck, Dylan Roberts, Michael Ropietski, Brayden Saracino, Victoria Scott, Elizabeth Sheeder, Ethan Shilanski, Taylor Sitkowski, Chretien Stoss, John Stout, Alexandra Strobel, Sydney Tellis, Emma Thomas, Eric Timlin, Lucas Tomko, John Tosi, IV, Hayley Vesek, Catherine Wallace, Carla Weiss, Robert Wren.

Juniors: Daniel Blessner, Emma Brown, Delaney Butler, Lauren Butwin, Steven Carr, Lorelei Centrella, Rachel Chamberlain, Abigail Chase, Kaitlyn Conrad, Logan Dalsanto, Leah Dettore, Emma Dombroski, Taylor Dworak, Paige Frank, Brandi Friedenthal, Haley Friedman, Hunter Fuller, Alexia Gronski, Thomas Janoski, Olivia Jorda, Connor Kavanagh, Jesse Kosierowski, Kyle Langan, Kate Lettieri, Cades Linder, Mia Linder, Abigail Lushefski, Megan MacNeely, Olivia Maniskas, Komal Mathon, Morgan McAndrew, Emily Miller, Alexandra Morse, Dougla Newbigging, Jr., Calli Ogurkis, Matthew Oley, Cara Pocono, Stepan Prodanets, Jason Puza, Marc Ramirez, Brooke Robbins, Derrick Rygelski, Kyla Saracino, Gabriella Schmoll, Sarah Sedeski, Caden Skasko, John Sobocinski, Gabriella Spaciano, Gabija Stewart, Nina Swailes, Robert Wicht, IV, Michael Williams, Joseph Wysocki, Kya Yourdon, Angelo Zarola, Kaylin Zelinski.

Sophomores: Olivia Andress, Summer Bailey, Jordan Bond, Abigail Boraski, Ryan Borton, Hayla Bryant, Lauren Carpenetti, Benjamin Carpenter, Natalie Conrad, Zachary Crahall, Hayden Curran, Emily Dautrich, Abigail DeAnthony, Sean Dolan, Chloe Dudick, Catherine Elgonitis, Dominick Fazzino, Aiden Fennell, Sophia Filali, William Filali, Madison Fleschut, Chloe Fosko, Madison Fostock, Caelan Gallagher, Kai Gomeau, Peter Harpersberger, Sarah Hastings, Shane Healey, Nolan Hedglin, Richard Hoyes, Mark Karcutskie, Jack Klikus, Colby Klinetob, Cody Konnick, Danielle Konnick, Abigail Lauer, Claire Lehane, Anderson Leo, Isabella Lepore, Hannah Letwinsky, Alan Lisman, Christian Lydon, Anthony Mackay, Peyton Mamola, Olivia Martin, Matthew Maxfield, Stephen Miller, Isabella Molitoris, Noreen Morsy, Madisyn Musselman, Brian Nguyen, Jordan Nichols, Aidan Niebauer, John O'Donnell, Alexandra Pehala, Sophia Piccolotti, Amelia Priebe, Abigail Quinnan, Matthew Richards, Abigail Salitis, John Scherer, Jr., Christian Shedlock, Lucas Shultz, Olivia Sitkowski, Ty Solensky, Floyd Sutton, Ashley Sweeney, Nicholas Teberio, Jordan Thomas, Carter Thompson, Michael Timinski, Emily Tinner, Matthew Tosi, Alivia Viene, Nicholas Vincelli, Courtney Wallace, Carolyne Wintersteen, Kennedy Wood, Mary Young.

Continued on the next page.

Continued from previous page.



Dallas High School Second Marking Period Honor Roll

Mr. Jeffrey D. Shaffer, Dallas Middle School Principal and Director of Secondary Curriculum for the Dallas School District, announces the Second Quarter Honor Roll. The Honor Roll is determined by the following: Honors With Distinction – 98 or above with no grade lower than 74; First Honors – 93 to 97 with no grade lower than 74; Second Honors – 88 to 92 with no grade lower than 74.

Freshmen: Gavin Adamski, Samantha Alaimo, Jackson Barr, Trinity Basara, Brooke Bealla, Shelby Bedony, Sydney Bolesta, Maximilian Bransford, Kaylee Carver, Abigail Cooper, Ciana Cruz, Landon Daney, Noah Dunbar, Sophia Farina, Kaylee Farrell, Allyson Gattuso, McKenzie George, Joshua Gross, Anya Grzesek, Mackenzie Hodakowski, Jacob Hoegen, Isabella Jacobs, Jack Karosa, Cassie Kern, Kayla Landi, Alyssa Loftus, Camryn Mallarkey, Alex Marcin, Paul McMillan, Zakary Mikolosko, Mikayla Miller, Emmett Moore, Cassidy Motley, Rory O’Brien, Adam Perry, Taylor Pickett, Carline Podskoch, Coral Pugh, Emily Raub, Brooklynne Reyes, Nickolas Ripa, Gabrielle Rogaski, Logan Sakulich, Hannah Scherer, Logan Slacktish, Allyson Spangenberg, Jacob Speicher, Caleb Stephens, Sophia Tellis, Olivia Thomas, Ethan Tinner, Logan Tomkins, Braylee Walsh, Maddoc Watkins, Andrew Wilk, Tyler Williams, Madeline Youngblood, Amber Zimmerman.

Second Honors - Seniors: Olivia Cragle, Duane Craig, Sarah Gurzynski, Brooke Higgins, Abby Jayne, Allison Jones, Claire Malarkey, Meagan Manzella, Colin Marshall, Thaddeus Mead, Ashley Mosca, Ryan Nita, Rachael Panzer, Jacob Psolka, Alexis Spudis, Christian Vasquez, Bailey Zelinski.

Juniors: Zeid Alhashemi, Gabriel Allen, Isabella Bailey, David Biscontini, III, Hannah Blazure, Benjamin Bradley, Stephen Brdaric, III, Mitchell Burgess, Riley Donnelly, James Dunstan, Kylee Eltringham, Benjamin Higgins, Marlee Letoski, Lillian Lombardo, Logan Paczewski, Lucas Polachek, Maggie Ropietski, Grace Rose, Trey Schappert, Jacob Seymour, Anna Smagin, Lydia Wrubel, Colby Zern, Katherine Zeyher.

Sophomores: James Antall, Jordan Artmont, Samuel Boger, Parker Bolesta, Kathryn Branca, Emmalee Carlsson, Ryan Cuba, Nicholas Godin, Emily Iannucci-Furman, Jordan Kelley, Madison Kerdesky, Morgan Matticks, Casey McGlynn, Isaac Myers, Vegan O’Donnell, Joseph Peters, Dustin Shaver, Emerson Sorber, Katherine Troutman, Casey Whalen, Isabella Wickenheiser.

Freshmen: Benjamin Ackourey, Sarah Allen, Ryan Andress, Audrianna Atherholt, Kevin Basalyga, Trevor Brdaric, Abigail Cruz, Michael Cumbo, Madison Danishanko, Savina Evanosky, Alex Fife, Andrew Goodrich, Bryce Gulbransen, Daniel Jones, Ty Kaufer, Reghan Lloyd, Robert Luongo, III, Elsie McCafferty, Colin McCann, Leah Mead, Lauren Morris, Trevor Radvanyi, Samuel Robson, Ethan Sensenig, Lucas Tirpak, Jacob Valkenburg, and Lindsay Ward.



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Six Tips to Maximize Your Tax Refund

By **Martin A. Federici, Jr., CEO**
of **MF Tax & Accounting, Inc.**



It's that time of year – tax preparation season is here! I'm sure some of you dread this time of year, but I've got six tips that can help you maximize your tax refund for the 2020 tax year (and future tax years):

1. Withhold the correct amount of federal (state and local also) taxes from your paycheck. This one simple step can ensure that you don't owe the government money on your tax returns or give them a tax-free loan of your money all year. The closer you get to zero is the most optimal result here (most people feel it's better to get a little refund back instead of owing taxes).

2. Take the higher amount of the standard or itemized deductions. Sounds simple enough but knowing if you have enough of the right type of deductions to itemize on your federal tax return can help you lower that tax bill (or get more money back). Most people claim the standard deduction amount (because the limit is so high now) but don't leave money on the table if you can deduct more by itemizing.

3. Take any eligible (and/or refundable) tax credits. Good tax software and knowledge of the available tax credits in any particular year are invaluable so don't sleep on the ones you are qualified to use (these can lower your tax bill directly and some can increase refunds above the tax you owe).

4. Contribute to your retirement accounts. This can be very important for not only the current tax prep year (can a traditional IRA contribution lower your tax bill or increase your refund?) but the current calendar year as well (should you contribute more to your 401(k) at work?). There are also retirement savings credits that may make this even more worthwhile if you qualify.

5. File your tax returns early. The earlier you file, the better your chances are that you'll receive your refund earlier. More money back in your pocket sooner is better than later (then you can use it)! Use direct deposit for refunds whenever possible (I know some people who did NOT receive the prior tax year's refund checks in the mail so ...). Identity thieves are also less likely to target you if you prepare your returns ASAP.

6. Use a qualified tax professional if you're not a D-I-Yer. The tax laws can be complicated and finding the right tax professional to help with your tax preparation (and overall personal tax situation) can be invaluable for some. We all want to pay the least amount in taxes we are legally allowed to pay so finding the right professional to work with can help maximize your tax refunds for years to come!

Find an experienced local tax preparer who works for a professional tax preparation firm, earns his/her money from hourly/job fees (NOT charging by the form), believes in helping their clients improve their tax/financial situations, and has the heart & demeanor of a teacher, NOT a salesman, and chances are you've found the right tax preparer to help you with your tax situation.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mftax.com>, email marty@mftax.com, or call (570) 760-6524. About MF Tax & Accounting, Inc. MF Tax & Accounting, Inc. is a full-service tax preparation & accounting firm based in PA & FL specializing in tax preparation, tax planning & advice, and accounting services. With 10+ years of licensed experience, over 10 years of professional education, and an unwavering commitment to helping you, MF Tax & Accounting, Inc. is the tax & accounting firm to best serve YOU.

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For more information or to place an advertisement, call Lisa Pretko at 570-674-7772.

Misericordia University will be Test Optional for Fall 2022 Admissions

Misericordia University has announced that it will continue to conduct test-optional admission reviews for the first-year class entering in Fall 2022 in all academic programs. Test optional admissions for first-year students was introduced for Fall 2021 admissions due to the cancellation of most SAT and ACT examination administration dates during the Spring of 2020 and the limited availability of testing sites and slots anticipated throughout the Fall nationally but especially in the Northeast.

"Challenges regarding access to standardize testing have continued into 2021, and we want to continue to respond. While we are still assessing whether test optional, in some form, will become a permanent policy at the university, we have seen more very strong students from the class of 2021 having the opportunity to access a Misericordia education in their chosen field, and we are excited to see those opportunities continue for the class of 2022," said Glenn Bozinski, Vice President of Enrollment Management.

While the submission of standardized tests for the Fall 2022 class will be optional, students applying are still encouraged to submit standardized test scores if they have taken or intend to take tests. Standardized test scores may still play a role in the awarding of academic scholarships. However, students who choose not to submit scores will still be eligible for scholarship consideration. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1924, Misericordia University is Luzerne County's first four-year college and offers 56 academic programs on the graduate and undergraduate levels in full and part-time formats.

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Legion Logbook

Daddow-Isaacs Dallas American Legion Post 672 had to cancel their monthly meeting in February due to a snowfall. However, the annual Pig Roast will take place on March 6 from 5-8 o'clock. The usual menu will be in place. There will be limited seating and take outs will be provided. A donation of \$6.00 for children under the age of 12 and a donation of \$15 for adults would be appreciated. The price increase is due to the rise in pork prices. Monies raised will be used for community projects. Tickets are available at the bar. Due to a surgical procedure, I will be unable to attend.



Clarence J. Michael
Past Commander
Dallas American
Legion, Post 672

As I stated in last month's column, I acquire a lot of information on My Health Vet, Department of Veterans Affairs. I found information on the American Legion Media Alliance and joined. I am the Historian of Post 672 and also the publicity chairman. By joining I received a Media Alliance press credential, Tips and Tricks pamphlet, and other materials to promote the American Legion. I plan on entering their annual contest for communicating the value of joining the American Legion. I will emphasize importance of the publicity that the local Back Mountain Community News gives us.

On February 3 we celebrate Four Chaplains Day which was established by Congress in 1988; the day honors the selfless sacrifice of four Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during World War II. Four Chaplains Day always kicks off Religious Emphasis Week, a key part of the Legion's "Service to God and Country" program. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains opened on the campus of Temple University in Philadelphia on February 3, 1951. It relocated in 2000 to a decommissioned WWII Navy Chapel in Philadelphia, where visitors can view the historic mural, five bronze plaques bearing the names of those who died in the U.S.S. Dorchester's sinking, and four large portraits of the Four Chaplains. Some residents have already visited the Chapel, and if you haven't, it might be added to your visitation list when you are able to visit Philadelphia. The entire Four Chaplain story is available on-line. You will really know the meaning of sacrifice when you read the entire story. An uplifting story in these contentious times.

The next monthly meeting of Post 672 will be held on the second Tuesday, March 9 at 7:30 P.M. Commander Darlene Kupstas invites all members and prospective members to attend. GOD BLESS AMERICA. (Stay safe and stay healthy!!)

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The Kiwanis Club of Dallas will feature a pair of “Kiwanis Koupons” fund raisers this spring



The Kiwanis Club of Dallas PA will feature a pair of “Kiwanis Koupons” fund raisers this spring. From now through March 31st (may continue monthly), special vouchers will be available for \$7.00 each, to be exchanged for one of the many delicious half subs at J&J Deli, Draft & Bottle Shop, located at 3101 Memorial Highway, in Dallas.

Then, beginning in late March, the club will feature a second voucher sale with Varsity Garden Center, located at 1204 Main St., (aka “the back road”), in Swoyersville. The vouchers will cost \$12, and provide the bearer with any one of hundreds of beautiful 10” hanging flower baskets, just in time for Mother’s Day and the summer ahead!

Vouchers must be utilized between May 1st and June 30th. Vouchers may be purchased on-line via Paypal, with forms available at www.kiwanisclubdallaspa.com; or on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/Kiwanis.DallasPA. If desired, vouchers may also be purchased through any club member, or by calling 570-215-5550. In keeping with the Kiwanis mission, profits from these fund raisers will benefit local children through school lunch and scholarship programs with the Dallas and Lake-Lehman schools. Kids Need Kiwanis. Kiwanis Needs You!



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- ✓ Clean Brown Paper Bags;



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- NO** Glass;
- NO** Aerosol cans;
- NO** Plastic bags of any kind;
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- NO** Chip, candy or any other wrapper;
- NO** Styrofoam of any kind;
- NO** Paper towels or napkins;
- NO** Ceramic glass, dishware, drinking glasses, bulbs, mirrors or window glass;
- NO** Shredded paper or paper to-go containers (pizza boxes), waxed paper, waxed cardboard or frozen drink/food containers;
- NO** Hazardous or medical waste; Please contact the office for options to dispose of medication.

We will not accept any items NOT indicated on the “accepted items” list at the recycling center or on our website.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.

All Recyclables need to be CLEANSED & RINSED.
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Grant Awarded to The Children's Center of Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties

The Children's Center, a child advocacy center serving Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties administered by Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 by the Wyoming County Community Health Foundation for forensic services i.e., medical exams and interviews for services to children who have experienced some type of abuse.

The Children's Center, located in Montrose, provides a safe, comfortable environment for children and their families as they go through the interviewing and examination processes after disclosing some type of traumatic experience. Shown in photo, from left are: Gertrude C. McGowan, Esq., CEO of Family Service Association; Janine Fortney, Children's Center Director, Family Service Association of Northeastern PA; and Shealynn Shave, Executive Director of Wyoming County Community Health Foundation.



Kunkle Volunteer Fire Company to hold a Take and Bake Pizza Sale

Kunkle Volunteer Fire Company, Juniors, are planning a Take & Bake Pizza Sale, Old Forge Style. Pizza drive-thru pickup is on Good Friday, April 2, from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.

Advanced orders only please, by contacting any Kunkle Fire Company member or by calling (570) 675-3334. Pizza orders are due by March 26th. Pizza is made plain or with onion for \$10, and pepperoni or pepperoni with onion \$12. Thank you in advance for supporting your local volunteers.

Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Company plans events for March

Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Company will have Monday Night Bingo on Monday, March 1, Monday, March 15, and Monday, March 29, 2021. Start time: 6:30 PM. Doors to hall open and kitchen begins serving at 5:00 PM. Where everyone still gets lucky! Please support your local volunteers!

Northmoreland Twp. Vol. Fire Co. will have Lenten Meals on Friday March 26, from 4-6:30 PM. This will be Take Out with Limited Eat In seating. Meals will be of Haddock, Crab Cake, Shrimp, with sides of Fries and Coleslaw, Price: \$9.00, also offering Homemade Haluski, New England Clam Chowder, and Manhattan Clam Chowder.

For more information, call the fire hall day of dinner at 570-333-4911. Please support your local volunteers!



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Belgian Draft Horse Rides (weather permitting)
 Alpaca Easter Bunnies from Pine Valley Alpacas
 (Saturday, March 27th from 10am - 4pm ONLY) for the kids to pet.
 Holy Smoke Cheese and Kielbasa and Legacy In a Glass
 will be pouring samples (Saturday, March 27th from 10-4pm ONLY)
 Fresh Flower Boutiques & Easter Bunny Bouquets will be available.
 Bring the kids for some Easter Fun and Activities ~ Cotton Candy,
 Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Smores and much more! Come see all the new
 country decor & homemade items from our 65+ vendors.

Craft for March ~ Wooden Door Mat.
 This class is currently being offered Saturday, March 20 at 6:30 pm.
 Contact The Blooming Barn as pre-registration is necessary.

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